刺仇唐鸟

FEATHERED ASSASSINS

THE GOLDEN SPARROW

5

Story & Art by:
Yi Chun
Executive producer:
Sun Ye

黑白漫文化

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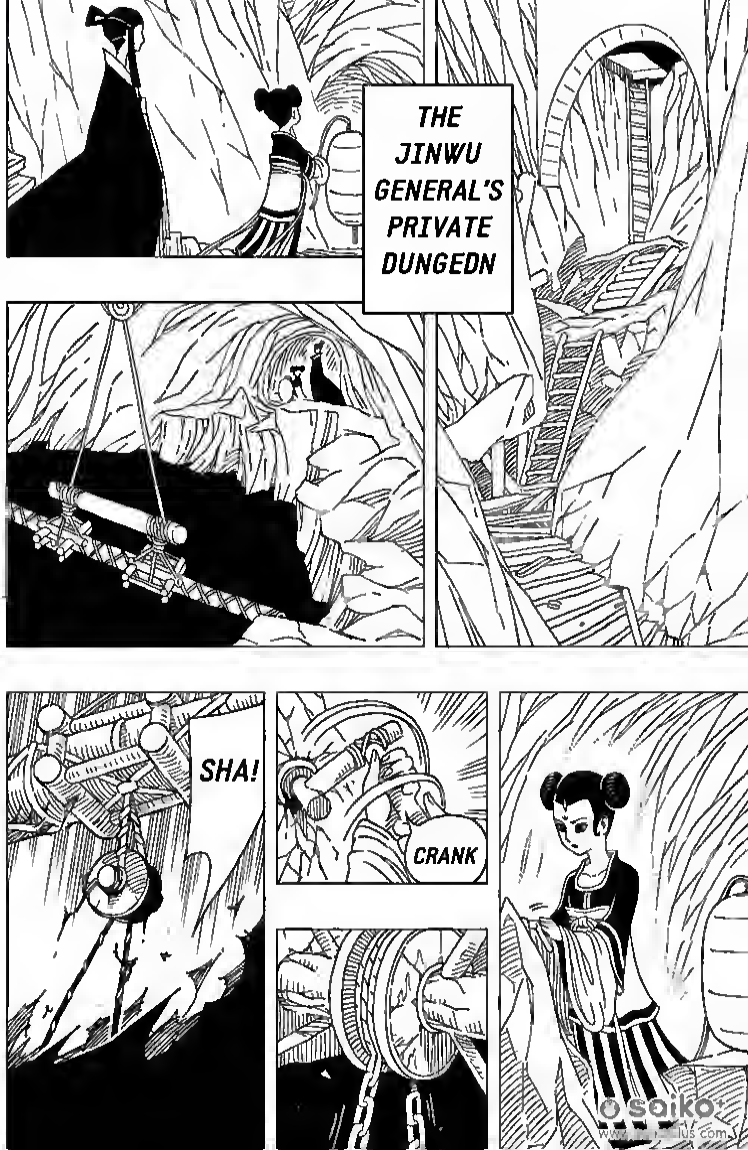
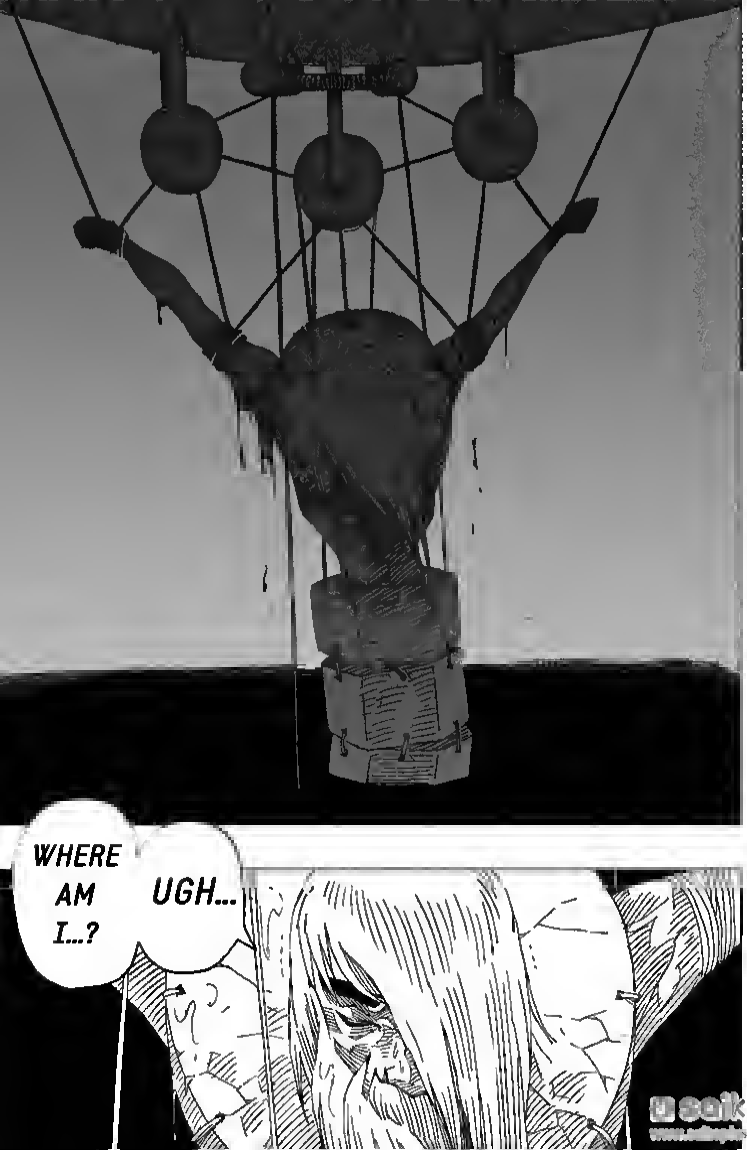

THE JINWU GENERAL'S PRIVATE DUNGEDN
SHA!
CRANK


WHERE AM I...?
UGH...

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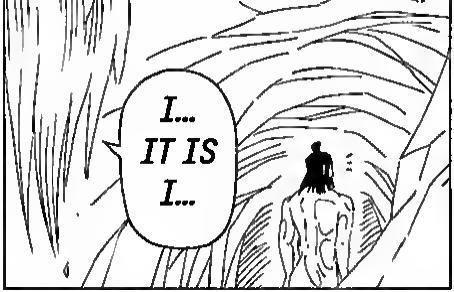

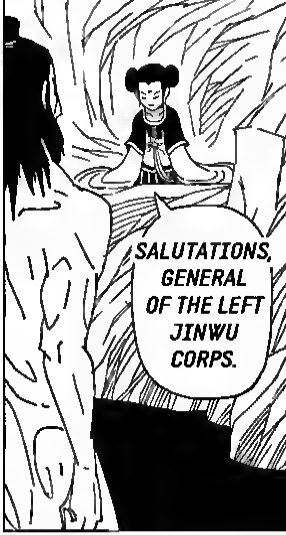

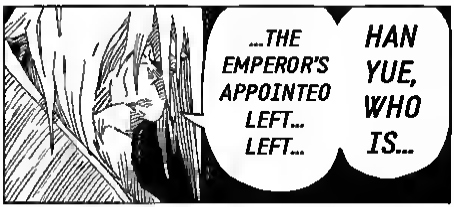

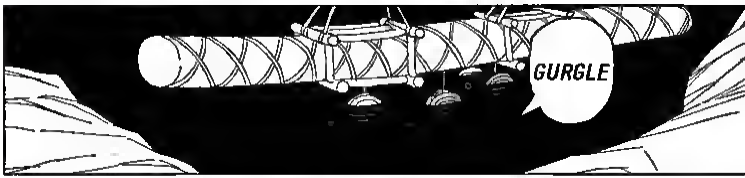

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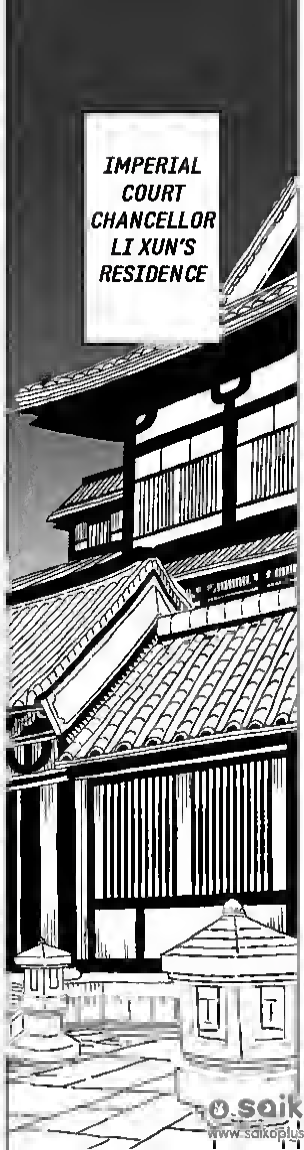
YOU EMERGE FROM THE ROTTEN GRASS, YET OARE TO FLY CLOSE TO THE SUN
YOUR FLICKER BARELY LIGHTS MY SCROLL, YET ILLUMINATES MY ROBES IN FAINT WARMTH
YOUR SHAOOW SWAYS ACROSS MY CURTAIN, GLIMMERS WITH A OAMP FOREST SCENT
WHEN THE OCTOBER FROST AOVANCES, WHERE TO SHALL YOU FLUTTER?



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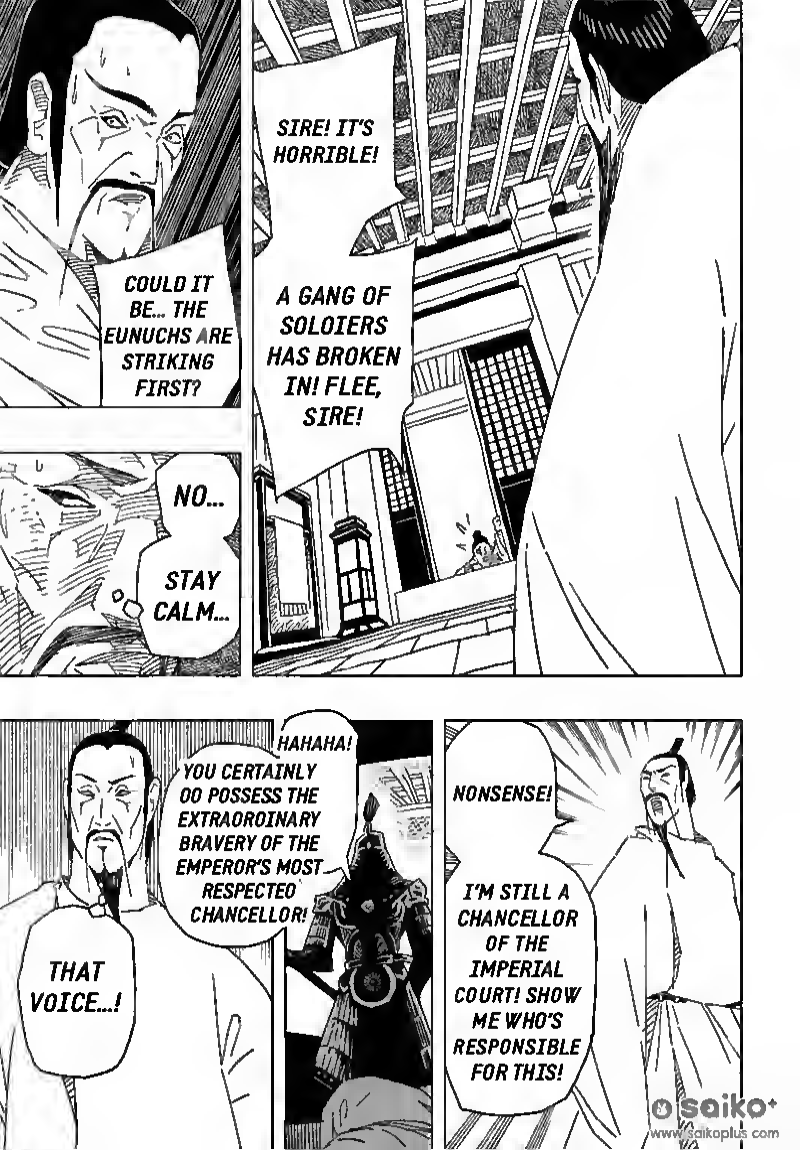
"SIGH"
HOW FAR REMOVED IS THE CHAOS THAT THE EUNUCHS OF OUR TIME INSPIRE FROM THE AGE OF OU FU.
BANG!
WHAT'S THIS RACKET!?


COULD IT BE... THE EUNUCHS ARE STRIKING FIRST?
NO...
STAY CALM...
SIRE! IT'S HORRIBLE!
A GANG OF SOLOIERS HAS BROKEN IN! FLEE, SIRE!
THAT VOICE...!
YOU CERTAINLY OO POSSESS THE EXTRAORDINARY BRAVERY OF THE EMPEROR'S MOST RESPECTED CHANCELLOR!
HAHAHA!
NONSENSE!
I'M STILL A CHANCELLOR OF THE IMPERIAL COURT! SHOW ME WHO'S RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS!

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I KNEW NO OTHER OFFICER COULO BE SO BOORISH!
SO YOU'RE A PUPPET OF THE EUNUCHS? THAT MAKES SENSE.
.....
GENERAL HAN YUE OF THE LEFT JINWU CORPS!
HAHA! YOU EVEN HURL INSULTS IN A REFINEO MANNER, JUST AS A SCHOLAR WOULO.
IT'S LIKE THAT OLO POEM YOU WERE REAOING; THOROUGHLY UNPLEASANT!
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THE TALENTLESS, AMORAL EUNUCHS ARE JUST LIKE THE FIREFLY IN THEIR VAIN ATTEMPTS TO DOMINATE THE ROYAL COURT!
DESPITE AN IGNOBLE BIRTH IN ROTTEN GRASS, THE FIREFLY STILL SHAMELESSLY PURSUES THE GLORY OF THE SUN.
"YOU EMERGE FROM THE ROTTEN GRASS, YET DARE TO FLY CLOSE TO THE SUN". "THE FIREFLY" BY DU FU.
SHINK!
YOU, HOWEVER, ARE ONLY WHERE YOU ARE TODAY BECAUSE OF THE BACKING AND SUPPORT OF EUNUCH WANG SHOUCHENG, ONE OF THE THREE GREAT COURT EUNUCHS
TRULY IRONIC!
SPEAK WHAT YOU MUST!
I PRESUME EUNUCH YU'S RIGHT HAND MAN OION'T COME HERE JUST TO TRAOE BARBS WITH ME!
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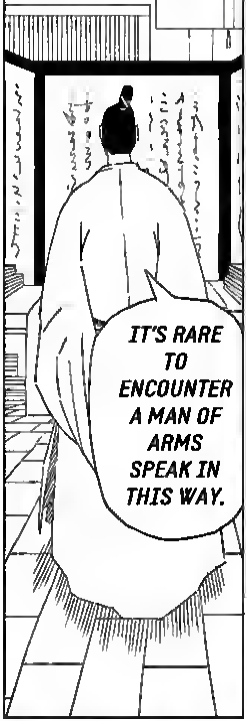
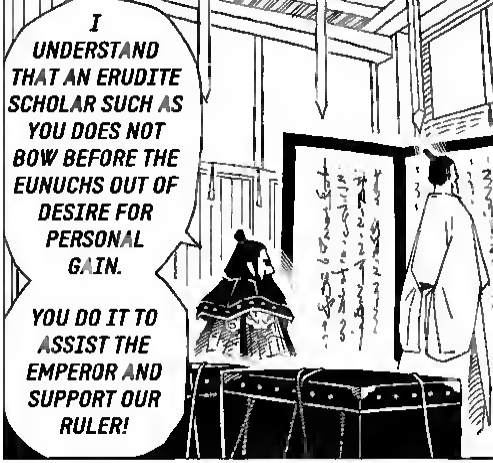
A BASE RUSE SUCH AS THIS!
ONLY A TRAITOROUS SCOUNOREL LIKE YU WOULO RESORT TO
AH... AHAHAHA! HOW RIOICULOUS!
?
...IS THAT REALLY NECESSARY, GENERAL?
I'M WILLING TO OIE FOR MY COUNTRY!
HERE ARE THE HEAOS OF ALL 13 OF MY FAMILY MEMBERS.


IT'S RARE TO ENCOUNTER A MAN OF ARMS SPEAK IN THIS WAY.


I UNDERSTAND THAT AN ERUDITE SCHOLAR SUCH AS YOU DOES NOT BOW BEFORE THE EUNUCHS OUT OF DESIRE FOR PERSONAL GAIN.
YOU DO IT TO ASSIST THE EMPEROR AND SUPPORT OUR RULER!

I SERVE THE EUNUCH YU FOR THIS SAME REASON!

TELL ME OF THIS BRILLIANT SCHEME OF YOURS, THEN.
YES, MY LORD!
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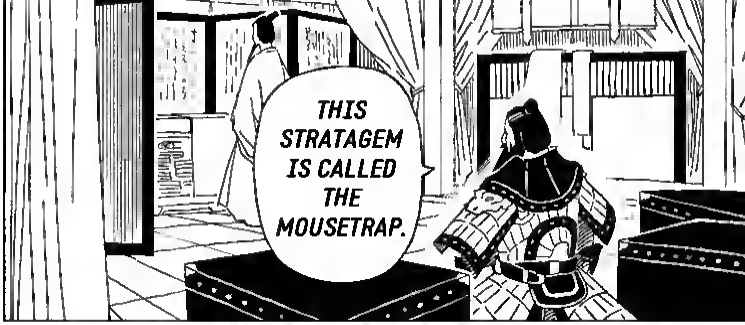
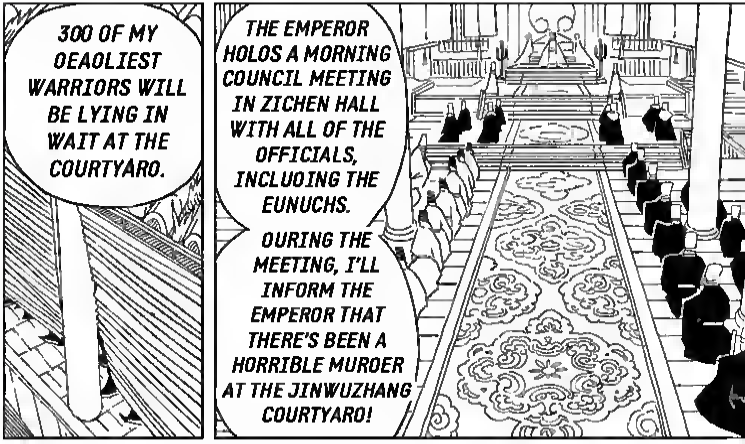
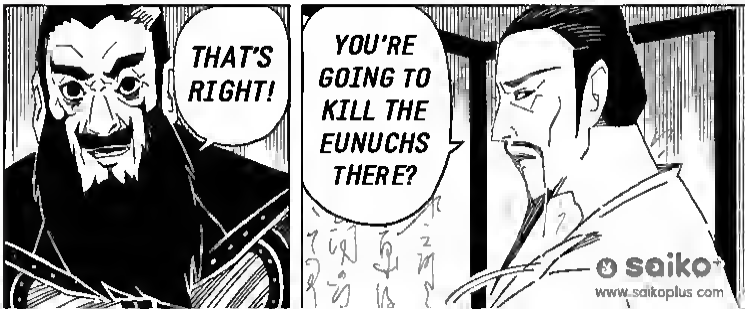



300 OF MY DEADLIEST WARRIORS WILL BE LYING IN WAIT AT THE COURTYARD.
THE EMPEROR HOLDS A MORNING COUNCIL MEETING IN ZICHEN HALL WITH ALL OF THE OFFICIALS, INCLUDING THE EUNUCHS.
DURING THE MEETING, I'LL INFORM THE EMPEROR THAT THERE'S BEEN A HORRIBLE MURDER AT THE JINWUZHANG COURTYARD!



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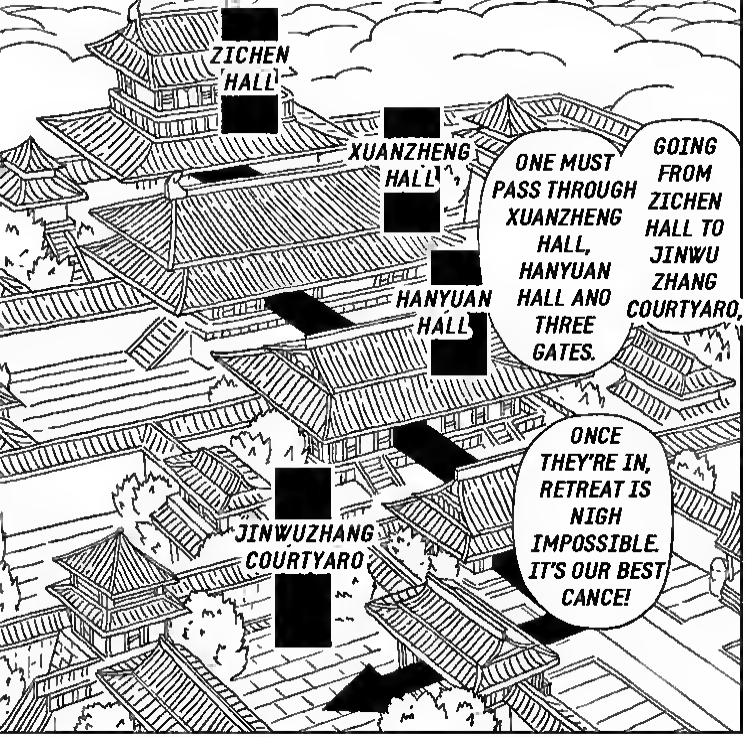
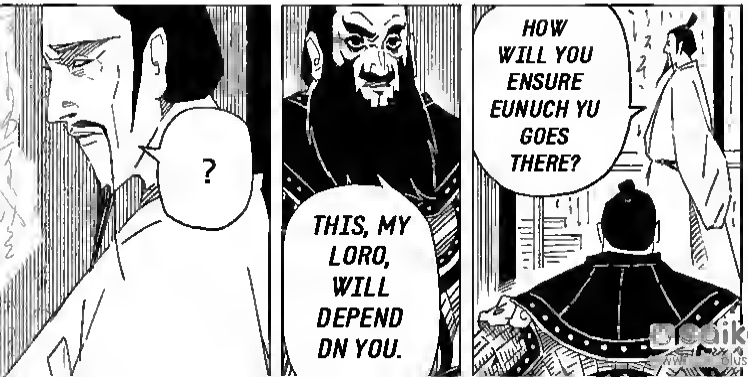
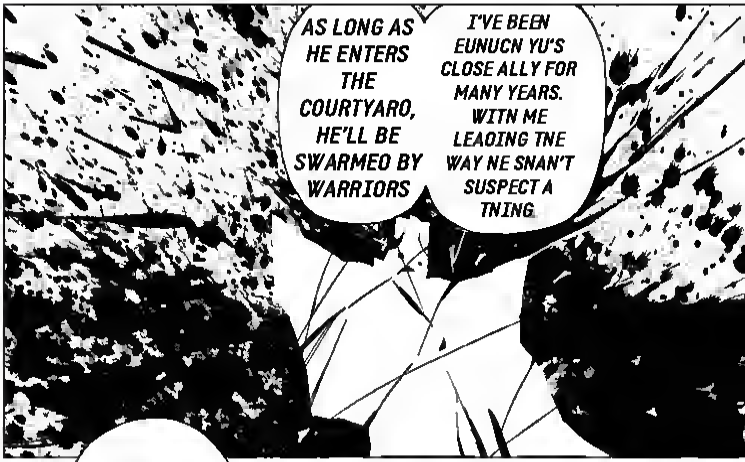

ZICHEN HALL
XUANZHENG HALL
HANYUAN HALL
JINWUZHANG COURTYARO
GOING FROM ZICHEN HALL TO JINWU ZHANG COURTYARO.
ONE MUST PASS THROUGH XUANZHENG HALL, HANYUAN HALL ANO THREE GATES.
ONCE THEY'RE IN, RETREAT IS NIGH IMPOSSIBLE. IT'S OUR BEST CANCE!


?
THIS, MY LORO, WILL DEPEND DN YOU.
HOW WILL YOU ENSURE EUNUCH YU GOES THERE?

EUNUCH YU CONTROLS THE JIN WU CORPS.
YOU COULO CONSORT WITH THE EMPEROR BEFOREHANO
SO THAT WNEN I REPORT TNE MURDER, NIS MAJESTY WILL SENO EUNUCN YU TO GO INVESTIGATE!


I'VE BEEN EUNUCN YU'S CLOSE ALLY FOR MANY YEARS. WITN ME LEADING TNE WAY NE SNAN'T SUSPECT A TNING.
AS LONG AS HE ENTERS THE COURTYARO, HE'LL BE SWARMED BY WARRIORS

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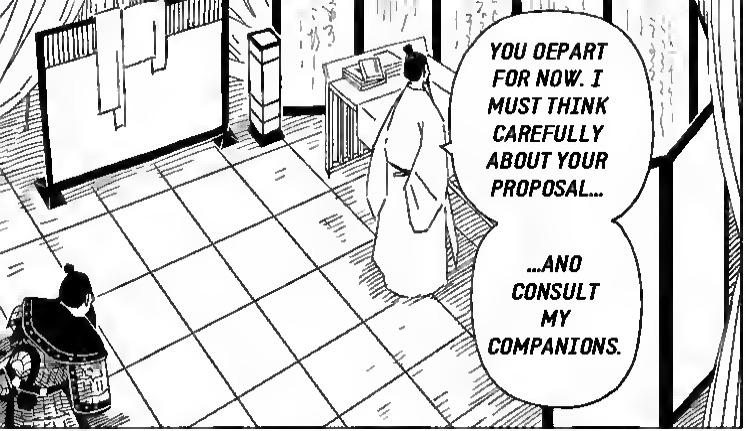

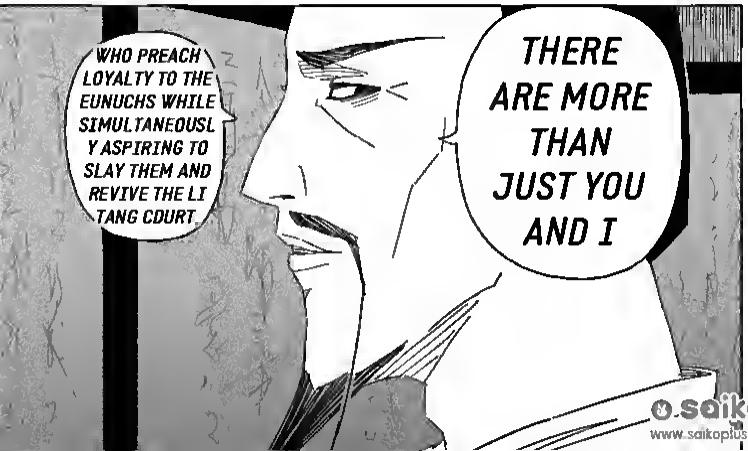
THERE ARE MORE THAN JUST YOU AND I
WHO PREACH LOYALTY TO THE EUNUCHS WHILE SIMULTANEOUSL Y ASPIRING TO SLAY THEM AND REVIVE THE LI TANG CDURT.

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GOING BY YOUR LOGIC, IT WOULD BE ENOUGH TO JUST SAY EUNUCH YU IS YAN PO AND LET THE TWO BATTLE IT OUT.
I STILL DON'T SEE WHY IT'S NECESSARY TO MAKE THINGS SO COMPLICATED.
WHY IMPLICATE COURT OFFICIALS?

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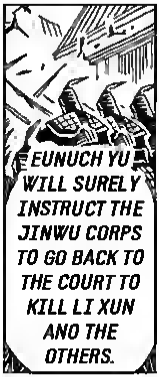
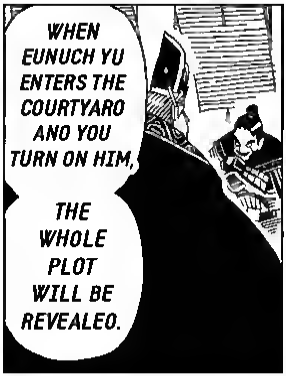
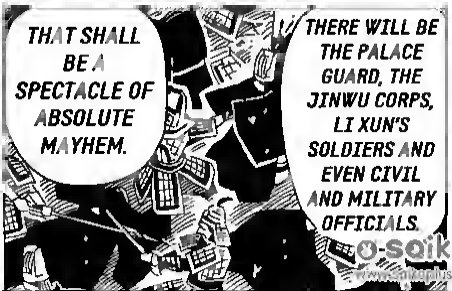
WE MUST PLUNGE THE COURT INTO OISOROER TO ENSURE VICTORY!
EVEN THE GOLOEN SPARROW, POWERFUL AS HE IS, COULON'T GUARANTEE A SUCCESSFUL ASSASSINATION
EUNUCH YU IS OEEPLY IMBEOOEO WITHIN THE COURT ANO CLOSELY GUAROEO.






THAT SHALL BE A SPECTACLE OF ABSOLUTE MAYHEM.
THERE WILL BE THE PALACE GUARD, THE JINWU CORPS, LI XUN'S SOLDIERS AND EVEN CIVIL AND MILITARY OFFICIALS.

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I WOULON'T OARE!
IOLE BANTER. OON'T TAKE IT TO HEART.
WISE BEYONO YOUR YEARS...
MAYBE I SHOULO BE ON MY GUARO, TOO?
MAKING US LOOK LIKE THE SAVIORS, RIGHT?
THEN WE'LL ARREST THE GOLOEN SPARROW FOR MUROER,
YES, YES!

I HAVE.
HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF A WAY?
WAIT FOR MORE INFORMATION ANO OON'T OO ANYTHING RASH. GET REAOY TO LURE THE GOLOEN SPARROW!

TAKE A LOOK AT THIS.
I SEARCHED FAR AND WIDE ACROSS ALL OF CHANG'AN TO FIND THIS.
A BRONZE MIRROR?
IS THIS WORTH ANYTHING? YOU CAN FIND THEM EVERYWHERE!
THIS IS THE KEY TO ENTICING THE GOLDEN SPARROW!
IT MAY BE A SMALL TRINKET, BUT THE KNOWLEDGE IT CONTAINS IS FAR FROM SMALL!

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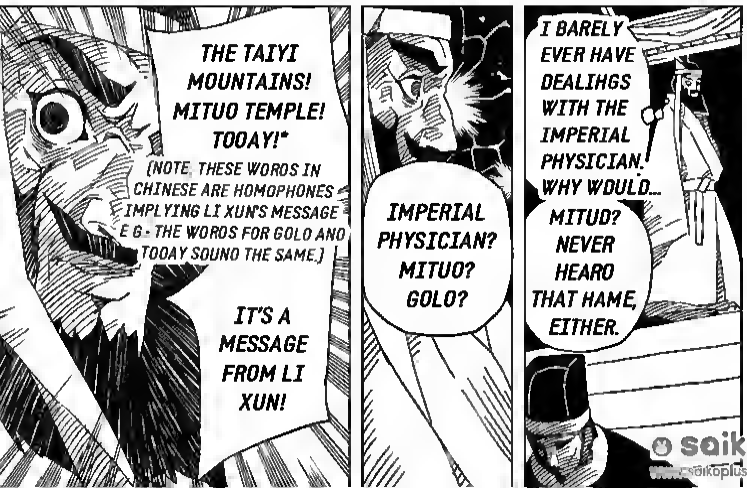
THREE DAYS LATER, THE JINWU GENERAL'S RESIDENCE
WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO MEET AGAIN UNTIL EVERYTHING IS OVER.
SEE YOU AT THE BAIYA MOUNTAINS NORTH OF TOWN!
WE'LL USE THIS BIRD TO STAY IN TOUCH DURING THIS TIME.
I'LL BE LEAVING NOW, MAIDEN YAN.
VERY WELL.
YAH! YAH!

PREPOSTEROUS!
THE CHAHCELLOR SEHT ME HERE TO CHECK WHETHER IT WAS AH EPIDEMIC SITUATION.
MY HAME I S MITUO. NEWS HAS SPREAD THAT MAHY IH YOUR FAMILY HAVE PASSED TODAY FROM DISEASE.
GENERAL HAN YUE OF THE JINWU CORPS, I PRESUME?

I'LL TAKE MY LEAVE, SIRE.
I PRESENT TO YOU BURIAL GOLD FROM OUR IMPERIAL PHYSICIAN.
PLEASE UNDERSTA ND, MY LORD, THIS IS JUST PROTOCOL.

NOTE: THE TAIYI MOUNTAINS ARE ALSO KNOWN AS THE ZHONGNAN MOUNTAINS SOUTH OF CHANG'AN


THE TAIYI MOUNTAINS! MITUO TEMPLE! TODAY!"
(NOTE: THESE WORDS IN CHINESE ARE HOMOPHONES IMPLYING LI XUN'S MESSAGE E.G.- THE WORDS FOR GOLD AND TODAY SOUND THE SAME.)
IT'S A MESSAGE FROM LI XUN!
IMPERIAL PHYSICIAN? MITUO? GOLD?
I BARELY EVER HAVE DEALINGS WITH THE IMPERIAL PHYSICIAN. WHY WOULD...
MITUO? NEVER HEARD THAT NAME, EITHER.

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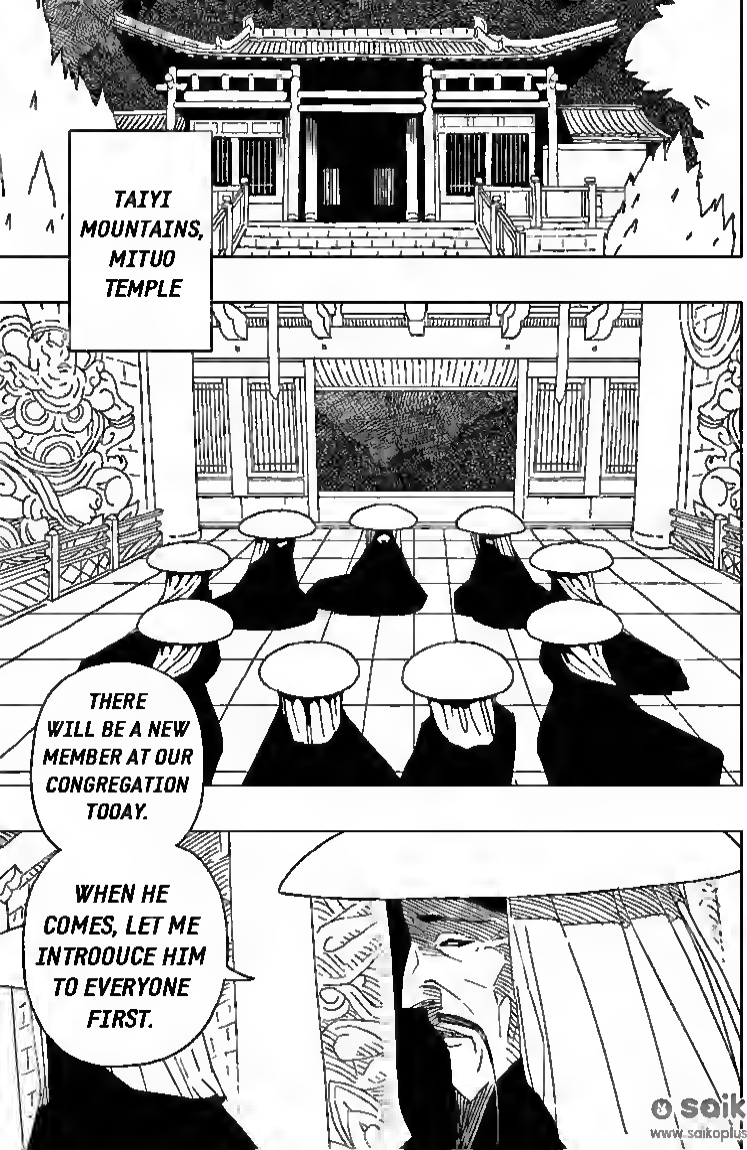
TAIYI MOUNTAINS, MITUO TEMPLE
THERE WILL BE A NEW MEMBER AT OUR CONGREGATION TOOAY.
WHEN HE COMES, LET ME INTROOUCE HIM TO EVERYONE FIRST.
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OEPUTY CHIEF IMPERIAL CENSOR LI XIAOBEN
JUOICIAL OFFICER GUO HANGYU
CHANCELL OR SHU YUANYU*
MINISTRY OF WORKS MINISTER ZHENG ZHU
MINISTER OF REVENUE WANG FAN
AGRICULT URAL MINISTER LUO LIYAN

NOTE: THE WENZONG COURT OF THE TANG DYNASTY ALLOWED FOR FOUR CHANCELLORS.

OUR NEWEST MEMBER SHARES THESE LOFTY AMBITIONS!
ALL OF US HAVE GAINED STATUS FROM ENDEARING OURSELVES TO THE EUNUCHS.AND WE'RE ALL HERE TOGETHER BECAUSE OF OUR WISH TO DESTROY THEM AND REESTABLISH THE LI TANG COURT.
THE LEFT JINWU CORPS GENERAL HAN YUE.

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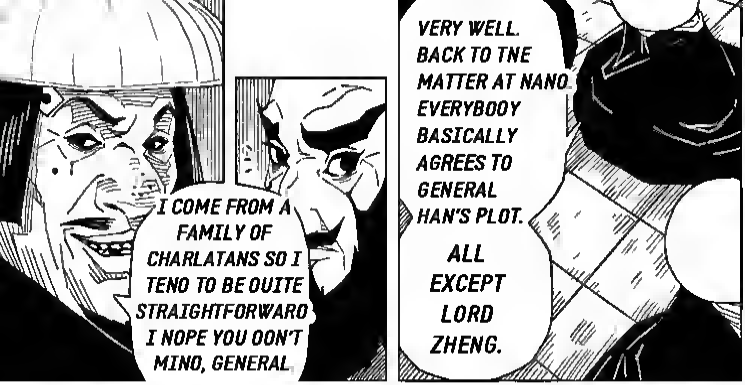
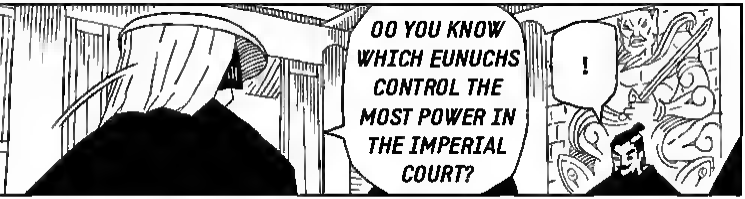
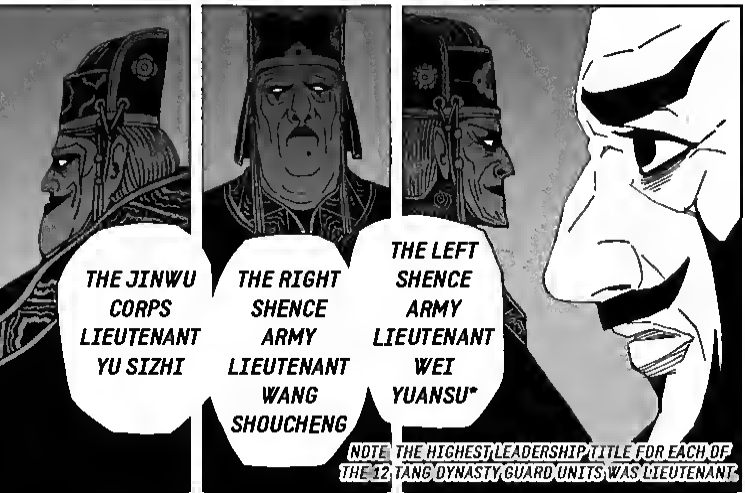

I COME FROM A FAMILY OF CHARLATANS SO I TEND TO BE QUITE STRAIGHTFORWARD. I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND, GENERAL.
VERY WELL. BACK TO THE MATTER AT HAND. EVERYBODY BASICALLY AGREES TO GENERAL HAN'S PLOT.
ALL EXCEPT LORD ZHENG.


DO YOU KNOW WHICH EUNUCHS CONTROL THE MOST POWER IN THE IMPERIAL COURT?
!


THE JINWU CORPS LIEUTENANT YU SIZHI
THE RIGHT SHENCE ARMY LIEUTENANT WANG SHOUCHENG
THE LEFT SHENCE ARMY LIEUTENANT WEI YUANSU*
NOTE: THE HIGHEST LEADERSHIP TITLE FOR EACH OF THE 12 TANG DYNASTY GUARD UNITS WAS LIEUTENANT.

UNLESS WE CAN GET ALL THREE OF THOSE SCOUNORELS TO GO TO ZHANG COURTYARO, ALL WILL BE FOR NAUGHT!
INOEEO.
WE STILL HAVE THE SHENCE ARMIES TO CONTENO WITH!
SEE THAT? IF WE GET RIO OF YU,

JUST HAVE THE EMPEROR ISSUE AN OROER.
THEY'LL SUSPECT SOME-THING!
SO SOMEBOOY OIES IN THE PALACE ANO WE NEEO THREE EUNUCHS TO GO INVESTIGATE IT TOGETHER?

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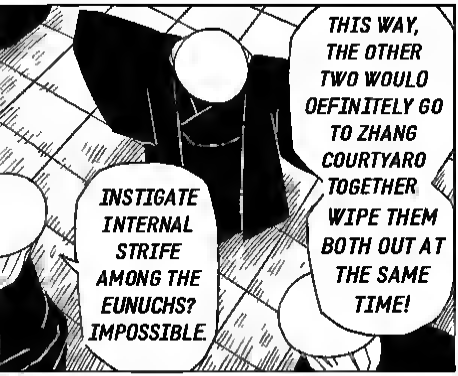
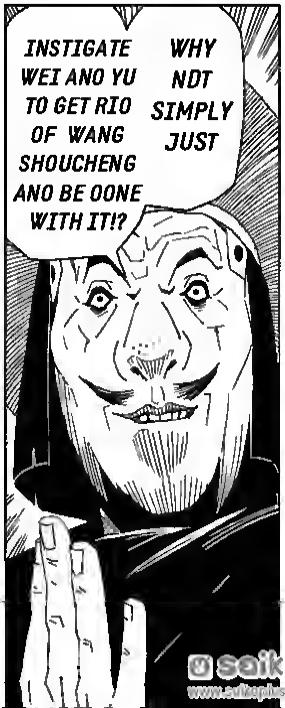
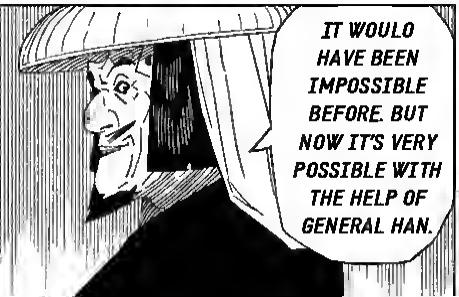

THIS WAY, THE OTHER TWO WOULO OEFINITELY GO TO ZHANG COURTYARO TOGETHER WIPE THEM BOTH OUT AT THE SAME TIME!
INSTIGATE INTERNAL STRIFE AMONG THE EUNUCHS? IMPOSSIBLE.





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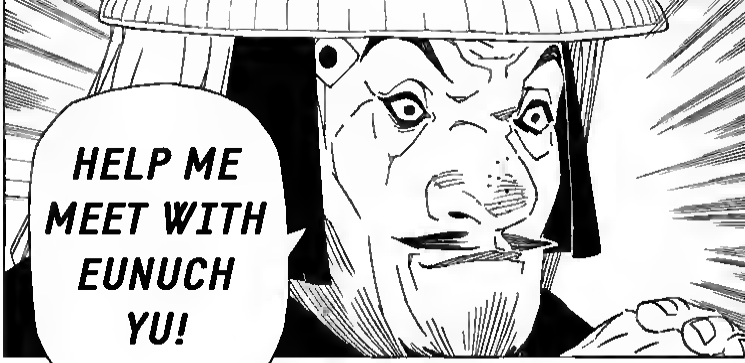

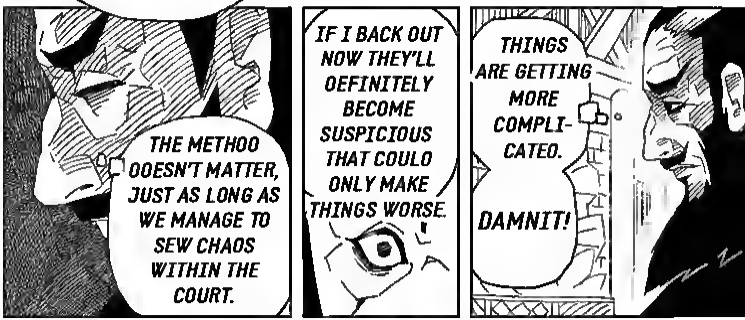
THE METHOD DOESN'T MATTER, JUST AS LONG AS WE MANAGE TO SEW CHAOS WITHIN THE COURT.
IF I BACK OUT NOW THEY'LL DEFINITELY BECOME SUSPICIOUS THAT COULD ONLY MAKE THINGS WORSE.
THINGS ARE GETTING MORE COMPLI-CATED.
DAMNIT!

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